

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12957 041111Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /042 W
-----080450 041113Z /10

P R 030941Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 7974
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 12957

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI JAZZ BAND

REF: (A) CAIRO 12772 (B) TUNIS 5465

1. BAND ARRIVED CAIRO 9:30 P.M. AUGUST 2, REACHED HOTEL 11 P.M. AFTER SMOOTH TRANSIT CUSTOMS FORMALITIES. GROUP HAD HOPED FOR HILTON BUT SEEMED SATISFIED WITH NILE, WHICH IS NEXT DOOR AMERICAN CENTER WHERE BAND EQUIPMENT STORED. PROGRAM ASSISTANT WAS AWAKENED BY STUDENT MANAGER AT 2:30 A.M. WITH REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CHANGE BECAUSE OF "FILTHY ROOMS, RUSTY TAP WATER, COCKROACHES, AND SOME ROOMS SHARING BATHS WITH STRANGERS." WHEN SHE SUGGESTED THEY WAIT UNTIL MORNING WHEN TRAVEL SECTION COULD ASSIST IF MOVE WAS NECESSARY, BAND DEMURRED, SENT SCOUTS TO OTHER HOTELS AND MOVED BEFORE DAWN TO BETTER, BUT INCONVENIENTLY LOCATED, PRESIDENT HOTEL.

2. AID TYD PERSONNEL REGULARLY STAY NILE HOTEL AND SEVERAL GROUPS (INCLUDING SECRETARY'S SECURITY DETAIL AND GROUP OF UNIVERSITY OF UTAH EDUCATORS) HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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STAYED RECENTLY WITHOUT SERIOUS COMPLAINT. BAND NOW REFUSING PAY FOR RESERVATIONS AT NILE DESPITE OUR EXPLANATION THAT LOCAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE FULL PAYMENT FOR LATE CANCELLATION, WITH EMBASSY ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR BILL. SINCE GETTING MONEY WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE BRUTE FORCE AND UNPLEASANT FEELINGS, POST MAY HAVE TO ABSORB THIS

EXTRA EXPENSE.

3. BAND IS SATISFIED WITH ALTERNATE HOTEL AND POST
DECISION TO GRANT FULL USD 58 PER DIEM. THEY
STATE THEY REGRET CAUSING ANY TROUBLE AND DO NOT
CONSIDER THEMSELVES "PRIMA DONNAS." HOWEVER, THEY
DO CONSIDER THEMSELVES PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS RATHER
THAN STUDENTS AN EXPECT TO BE TREATED ACCORDINGLY.
THEY ARGUE THAT SUBSTANDARD ACCOMMODATIONS ADVERSELY
AFFECT THEIR ABILITY TO PUT ON A QUALITY
SHOW. POST BELIEVES GROUP IS SINCERE (THEY ARE
OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO PERFORM AND MEET LOCAL AUDIENCES)
BUT VERY POORLY PREPARED TO COPE WITH CONDITIONS
OTHER YOUTHFUL GROUPS HAVE TAKEN IN STRIDE. WE
HOPE GOOD CONCERT AUGUST 6 MAKES ALL WORTHWHILE.

4. BAND HAD LENGTHY MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPORT OF
TUNIS CABLE. THEY REPLY: (A) GROUP REITERATES
BASIC ADAPTABILITY AND HOPES TUNIS NOT PREJUDGING.
MANAGER SAYS GROUP DOES NOT EXPECT LUXURY, IS
SATISFIED WITH "CLEAN, COMFORTABLE, REASONABLE
TOURIST CLASS" ROOMS. (B) ACCOMMODATIONS DO NEED
BE SECURE SINCE VALUABLE PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS WILL
BE LEFT IN ROOMS. ASSUME "SPARTAN" ROOMS IN
HAMMAMET COMPLY. (C) ADVISES THAT 10 DOUBLES AND
1 SINGLE IN SOUSSE NOT SUFFICIENT FOR 22 PEOPLE.
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(D) REMINDS THAT CU REQUESTED USD 10 SPENDING
MONEY FOR EACH DAY; REALIZES THAT PARTIAL DAYS
INVOLVED BUT WANTS BE SURE THEY GIVEN WHAT
AUTHORIZED. (E) SAYS ONWARD PASSENGER BOOKINGS
TO PARIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE BUT KNOWS ONWARD
FREIGHT SHIPMENT CANNOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL
ARRIVAL.
EILTS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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